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Russians Say an Ex-C.I.A. Man

Who Spied in India Has Defected

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Special to The New York Times

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MOSCOW, Oct. 24 — An American who identified himself as a former agent of the Central Intelligence Agency was reported today to have defected to the Soviet Union.

An excerpt from a book written by the American, John Smith of Quincy, Mass., purporting to expose United States espionage activities in India, is printed in the latest edition of Literaturnaya Gazeta, the weekly organ of the Union of Soviet writers.

The book is considered by some observers in Moscow to be the latest volley in a spy-book duel between the Soviet Union and the West. It follows the publication in Britain last month of "Man From Moscow" by Greville M. Wynne, a Briton sentenced to eight years in a Soviet prison in 1963 as an accomplice of Col. Oleg V. Penkovsky, who was executed as a traitor. Mr. Wynne was released the next year in an exchange for a Soviet spy jailed in Britain.

The Soviet spy, Gordon A. Lonsdale, was sentenced in 1961 to 25 years in prison by the British as the "directing mind" of an espionage ring at the Portland naval base.

After his return to Moscow, Lonsdale published a book, "Spy," in 1965.

Authenticity Challenged

About the same time, the alleged memoirs of Colonel Penkovsky were published in the United States under the title "The Penkovskiy Papers." The book, the authenticity of which has been challenged, sheds light on the operations of Soviet intelligence.

In turn, the book of the self-styled Central Intelligence Agency man purports to expose operations of that agency.

The author, who has taken Soviet citizenship and now lives in Moscow, says that he was recruited by the C.I.A. while he was serving in the United States Embassy in New Delhi as a diplomatic code clerk.

He describes in detail a plot in which he says he played the key role in gaining access to the secret codes of an unidentified nonaligned nation.

The nation's pro-Soviet policies were troubling Washington, he says.

Mr. Smith identifies John Waller, John Marsh and other diplomats in the United States Embassy in New Delhi in the nineteen-fifties as fellow conspirators in the employ of the Central Intelligence Agency.

He asserts that the agency recruited agents among the Indian military leaders, including

ing members of the army's General Staff.

Mr. Smith indicates in an introduction to the excerpt published today that insights about the activities of the C.I.A. are to be expected in his book.

"It is impossible to keep secrets from code clerks because of the nature of their work," he writes.

Mr. Smith says that, besides serving in the embassy in India, he worked in embassies in Ceylon, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The defector alleges that he was persecuted and forced to quit the diplomatic service because of nonconformist political views and disagreement with United States foreign policies.

Before he came to the Soviet Union, he writes, he wandered through many countries, including Australia, Switzerland and Italy.

Mr. Smith does not make it clear when he arrived in the Soviet Union. The United States Embassy in Moscow said that it had no information about him.

Tass Reports on Defector

MOSCOW, Oct. 24 (AP)—

According to a summary in Tass, the Soviet press agency, Mr. Smith served in the United States Navy and went to work for the State Department in 1950.

He was said to have spent his first 17 years in Quincy, Mass., receiving his education at Thayer Academy in nearby Braintree. Then he worked at yards that manufactured warships before he volunteered for the Navy.

After studying at naval schools, Tass said, he was sent into permanent service at a special liaison department of the Navy, which was engaged in deciphering enemy codes. After the war, it said, he attended Washington University.

According to the account, Mr. Smith and an agent called "Pete Petersen" taped conversations of the Indian military. Meanwhile, it said, his wife, "Mary London Smith, who worked with the C.I.A., supposedly told him about many secret agents of the C.I.A. among the Indian military."

Soviet Motive Assailed

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24 —

United States intelligence officials suggested today that the Soviet Government was publicizing the memoirs of an alleged American defector from the Central Intelligence Agency to offset publicity about the recent defection of a Soviet intelligence agent.